



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
Public Health

CYNTHIA A. HARDING, M.P.H.
Interim Director

JEFFREY D. GUNZENHAUSER, M.D., M.P.H.
Interim Health Officer

313 North Figueroa Street, Room 708
Los Angeles, California 90012
TEL (213) 240-8156 • FAX (213) 481-2739

www.publichealth.lacounty.gov



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December 16, 2015

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Cynthia A. Harding, M.P.H.
Interim Director

SUBJECT: **ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO EXTEND THE TERM OF
FOUR EXISTING SOLE SOURCE CONTRACTS FOR ALCOHOL AND
OTHER DRUG PREVENTION SERVICES**

This is to notify you that the Department of Public Health (DPH) intends to request Board approval to extend the term of four sole source contracts as follows: Contract Number PH-002773 with San Fernando Valley Partnership (SFVP), Contract Number PH-002817 with Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), Contract Number PH-002818 with LACOE, and Contract Number PH-002745 with Pueblo y Salud (PYS), to continue to provide Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Services (AODPS) in Los Angeles County Service Planning Areas (SPA) 1, 2, and 7, effective July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2018.

This notice is being sent in accordance with revised Board Policy 5.100, which states that County departments that intend to request Board approval to extend the term of an existing sole source contract must provide at least six months advance written notice to your Board.

Background

In October 2010, the DPH Substance Abuse Prevention and Control Program (SAPC) issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit bids for AODPS to address specific alcohol and other drug (AOD) issues of local communities, with a focus on youth and young adults in Los Angeles County. The AODPS RFP had two components: Environmental Prevention Services (EPS) and Comprehensive Prevention Services (CPS).

Environmental Prevention Services (EPS) focus on alcohol availability and accessibility through environmental prevention efforts that change the policies, ordinances, and practices related to alcohol use within the Service Planning Area (SPA). This component required contractors to organize and lead SPA-based coalitions to mobilize communities around the identified alcohol-related prevention issues. The RFP sought one contractor to provide services in each SPA.

Comprehensive Prevention Services (CPS) focus on both community and individual level services to decrease AOD availability and accessibility and impact the social norms and community conditions that contribute to AOD use, especially among youth and young adults. The RFP sought a maximum number of contractors to provide services in each SPA.

The RFP was designed to be reflective of current AOD prevention research and in alignment with state and federal requirements, including the use of the Strategic Prevention Framework, a five step planning process that systematically guides the development and implementation of prevention services. EPS and CPS agencies selected under the RFP were required to follow this process. The agencies were also specifically funded to conduct a comprehensive community assessment during the first six months of the contract term and participate in a county-wide evaluation to determine effectiveness of services and achievement of outcomes.

The sole source contracts were made to address gaps in prevention services that resulted from a lack of qualified proposals in response to the RFP. Sole source contracts were needed for one CPS contract in SPA 1 and for one EPS contract in SPA 2. Based on past and current prevention experience, SFVP was recommended for the EPS contract and PYS was recommended for the CPS contract. At the same time, LACOE was also recommended for a sole source contract to provide Friday Night Live (FNL) services, which are school-based alcohol- and drug-free student activities. The FNL program complements the EPS and CPS programming in school settings and is critical to reaching students. LACOE is the only provider able to operate FNL, and the only agency with experience providing these types of services. On December 6, 2011, your Board approved the award of these sole source contracts.

Justification

Each of the three programs has over 30 years of experience in successfully operating community- and school-based substance use prevention programs in the County. During the past 30 years, these programs have been continuously contracted by SAPC to provide community- and school-based substance abuse prevention services, have met or exceeded all contract performance requirements, and have maintained good standing as contractors.

Resoliciting these sole source contracts is not feasible at this time for several reasons. First, SAPC is presently in the midst of a Strategic Planning Process for its prevention programs and services. When completed later this fiscal year, the Strategic Prevention Plan will guide the future direction for prevention services and the solicitation of new contracts by SAPC. Secondly, SAPC is also in the midst of planning its participation in the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System waiver program that will result in transforming its current system of services for adolescents and adults. SAPC intends to include prevention services as a component of the organized delivery system. Finally, AODPS are a key component for the integrated healthcare system within the newly established county health agency and play a critical role in the continuum of care. However, the model is still under development, and many plans for integration which may impact future services are still forthcoming. For these multiple reasons, resoliciting the contracts cannot be accomplished until a comprehensive prevention plan is completed that includes these considerations.

Impact to DPH if Term of Sole Source Contracts is Not Extended

Failure to extend the term of the contracts will create service gaps for AODPS EPS, CPS, and LACOE FNL prevention services in the SPAs identified above. Without AODPS in these areas, there is a risk of increased substance abuse among youth, as well as a risk of increased associated issues, such as delinquency, criminal behavior and poor school achievement.

Alternative Plan

As described above, SAPC is currently engaged in a Strategic Prevention Planning Process. The plan will be used to guide the future direction for prevention services and solicitation of new contracts. In order to avoid disruption of prevention services, it is necessary to extend the term of these existing sole source contracts.

Timeline

It is anticipated that DPH will return to your Board in June 2016 to request authorization to extend the term of its prevention contracts including these. At that time, DPH will request a two-year extension, subject to performance and the availability of funds, to allow adequate time for implementation of its Strategic Prevention Plan and resolicitation of all prevention contracts.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please let me know.

CAH:jl
#03474

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Acting Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors